## Message Text

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45

**ACTION EA-14** 

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SPM-01

AGR-20 AID-20 IGA-02 IO-13 ACDA-19 DPW-01 OMB-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 RSR-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 /145 W ------ 052213

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O R 111143Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2057

INFO SECDEF

CINCPAC

COMUSMACTHAI

USAAG

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CONFIDENTIAL PHNOM PENH 6968

FOR STATE/AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB

SUBJ: DAILY RICE SITUATION

REF: PHNOM PENH 6926

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A PROJECTION OF THE RICE SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH COVERING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 10 TO JULY 20, 1973

 $7/10 \quad 7/11 \quad 7/12 \quad 7/13 \quad 7/14 \quad 7/15$ 

BEGINNING STOCK 11226.6 10898.9 10348.9 18298.9 17748.9 177998.

9

ROUTE 4 - - - - -

ROUTE 5 115 - - - 800 - MEKONG - 8500 - - -

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TOTAL AVAILABLE 11341.6 10898.9 18848.9 18298.9 18548.9 17998.

9 LESS DISTRIBUTION 442.7 550 550 550 550 550 BALANCE 10898.9 10348.9 18298.9 17748.9 17998.9 17448.

7/16 7/17 7/18 7/19 7/20

BEGINNING STOCK 17448.9 16898.9 17148.9 20398.9 19848.9

04 550 550 550 550

BALANCE 16898.9 17148.9 20398.9 19848.9 19298.9-35.08

1)IN THE EVENT ROUTE 5 IS CLOSED: 17698.9 AT 550 - 32.17 DAYS
2) IN THE EVENT THE MEKONG IS CLOSED: 6998.9 AT 550 -12.72 DAYS
3)IN THE EVENT ROUTE 5 AND THE MEKONG
ARE CLOSED: 5398.9 AT 550 - 9.81 DAYS
4) IN THE EVENT ROUTE 5 AND THE MEKONG

ARE CLOSED AT 700 MT/DAY: 3748.9 AT 700- 5.35 DAYS

1. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE GKR'S RICE COMMITTEE CONVENED ON JULY 11 AND WAS ATTENDED BY AN ECON DELEGATION LED BY THE DEPUTY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A. NEED TO MOVE AS MUCH RICE AS FEASIBLE FROM BATTAMBANG TO PHNOM PENH WHILE ROUTE 5 REMAINS OPEN. THE MAIN PROBLEM LIES IN THE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE ATTITUDE OF THE BATTAMBANG GOVERNOR WHO IS ALLOWING MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN SURROUNDING PROVINCES TO COMPETE WITH SORAPA IN THE PURCHASE OF SURPLUS RICE AND/OR TO DRAW FROM SORAPA'S EXISTING STOCK DESTINED FOR PHNOM PENH. A CABLE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S CABINET IS GOING OUT TODAY TO THE BATTAMBANG GOVERNOR INSTRUCTING HIM NOT TO IMPEDE MOVEMENTS OF RICE TO PHNOM PENH, AND A GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATION HEADED BY THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMERCE WILL BE HEADING FOR BATTAMBANG LATER TODAY OR TOMORROW MORNING AT THE LATEST TO GET RICE CONVOYS MOVING AT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE RATE OF THREE TO FOUR PER WEEK.

B. AIRLIFTS TO KOMPONG CHAM AND SVAY RIENG. AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED WITH KHMER AKAS TO SUPPLY SVAY RIENG AT THE RATE OF 2,500/100 KILOS BAGS A WEEK UNDER THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT TO BE SIGNED MOMENTARILY. (AIR CAMBODGE PILOTS REFUSE TO FLY TO SVAY RIENG.) KHMER AKAS IS STARTING TODAY, JULY 11, TO LIFT RICE TO SVAY RIENG AT A FIXED COST OF 3,300 RIELS PER BAG, WHICH

INCLUDE LAND TRANSPORTATION FROM GOVERNMENT WAREHOUSES TO POCHENTONG AIRPORT. TWO SORTIES ARE SCHEDULED FOR TODAY, SIX FOR JULY 12, AND UP TO 12 WITHIN A WEEK. NEGOTIATIONS WITH AIR CAMBODGE FOR SUPPLYING KOMPONG CHAM ARE NOT YET COMPLETED. GIVEN THE EMERGENCY OF THE SITUATION IN KOMPONG CHAM, WE ARE INSISTING THAT ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT BE BROUGHT IN IMMEDIATELY FOR AS LONG AS NECESSARY UNTIL THE DOMESTIC AIRLIFT GAINS SUFFICIENT MOMENTUM. WE AREMEETING AGAIN WITH THE RICE COMMITTEE AT 0800 JULY 12.

- 2. MEKONG CONVOY. THE CONVOY EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN PHNOM PENH ON JULY 12 APPEARS ON SCHEDULE. WE HAVE INCREASED THE AMOUNT OF RICE PROJECTED TO ARIVE ON JULY 18 BY THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF RICE NOW BEING LOADED IN SAIGON.
- 3. RICE DISTRIBUTION. THE RICE DISTRIBUTION RATE APPEARS TO BE FALLING WITHIN THE 550 MT DAILY DISTRIBUTION RATE ANNOUNCED BY THE GKR ON JUNE 20. SINCE THAT DATE, THE TOTAL RICE DISTRIBUTED HAS AVERAGED APPROXIMATELY 520 MT PER DAY.
- 4. ROUTE 4 REMAINS OPEN TO CONVOY TRAFFIC.
  WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS, SECURITY HAS IMPROVED EAST OF
  KOMPONG SPEU WHEREFANK FORCES OPERATING BOTH TO THE NORTH AND
  THE SOUTH OF THE ROAD HAVE CONTINUED TO PUSH BACK THE ENEMY.
  THE REST OF ROUTE 4 REMAINS CALM AND THERE ARE NO NEW INDICATIONS
  THAT THE ENEMY IS PLANNING TO CLOSE THE ROAD AGAIN AT THIS TIME.
  SINCE THERE IS NO RICE IN KOMPONG SOM WAITING DELIVERY TO PHNOM
  PENH, THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE IS PRESENTLY EXPLORING THE
  POSSIBILITY OF SHIFTING TRUCKS FROM ROUTE 4 TO ROUTE 5 TO TRANSPORT
  GOVERNMENT STOCKS OF RICE IN BATTAMBANG TO PHNOM PENH AS QUICKLY
  AS POSSIBLE. ROUTE 5 ALSO REMAINS OPEN AND A CONVOY ARRIVED FROM
  BATTAMBANG ON JULY 10 WITH 115 M/T OF RICE. THE NEXT BATTAMBANG
  CONVOY IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN PHNOM PENH ON JULY 14. THE

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FANK UNITS WHICH RECENTLY CLEARED ROUTE 5 ARE STILL OPERATING IN THE SALA LEAK PROM AREA. SWANK

NOTE BY OC/T: (####) APPARENT OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW. PHNOM PENH 6968

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NNN

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005